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ITALY: Senate President Fanfani sees a serious
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ITALY: [Senate President Fanfani in a wide-ranging discussion of the Italian situation asserted that regional political situations in Sicily and Sardinia may have serious national repercussions.]

[In Sicily, the Communists and the Christian Democrats are lined up on opposite sides in an emerging Mafia scandal which may involve figures of national political and economic importance. In Sardinia, some Christian Democrats and Socialists are considering formation of a two-party regional coalition, rather than repeating the national pattern of four-party center-left cooperation. Exclusion of the two smaller parties would add to serious strains in the national coalition.]

[Fanfani also sees a need to push for final parliamentary approval of Prime Minister Colombo's economic bill by the middle of this month if the law is to take effect before the customary two-week Christmas lull in parliamentary activity. Missing this deadline might delay its application until mid-January. The bill, which received Chamber of Deputies approval on Monday, is a government prerequisite for certain social reforms that are expected to fore-stall a new wave of protest strikes this winter.]

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